

EXHIBIT A

109.0015
Claims on the Web (COW)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Dodd et al.
Serial No.: 10/036,605
Filed: December 21, 2001
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR AUTOMATIC SUBMISSION, AUDIT AND
ADJUSTMENT OF MORTGAGE INSURANCE CLAIMS
Group: 3693
Examiner: Patel, Jagdish

Durham, North Carolina
December 2, 2009

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Declaration of Peter H. Priest Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131

Sir:

I, Peter H. Priest, declare as follows:

1. All statements herein made of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.
2. Claims 1-26, 30 and 31 of the present application have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) based on Sellers et al. U.S. Publication No. 2001/0044773 (Sellers), a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A hereto. Claims 27-29 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) based on Sellers in view of Glenn, "Loan Management Software Gets Warm Reception",

Real Estate Finance Today, Feb. 8, 1999, Vol. 16, Issue 5, p. 6 (Glenn). From its face, Sellers has a publication date of November 22, 2001.

3. Prior to November 22, 2001, as well as currently, I have been the sole proprietor of the Law Offices of Peter H. Priest, P.L.L.C. and its predecessor, the Law Offices of Peter H. Priest and a partner of Priest & Goldstein, PLLC (collectively "the firm").

4. On or about, February 21, 2001, the firm received an Innovation Disclosure Form from GE Capital Mortgage Corporation ("GE Capital Mortgage"). That Innovation Disclosure Form was dated September 15, 2000 and a copy is attached as Exhibit B hereto.

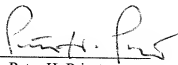
5. Our firm proceeded to contact the inventors and to work diligently to prepare and file the present application on December 21, 2001.

6. As indicated at page 1, lines 5-7 of the specification of the present application, "[a] computer program listing appendix" was submitted on a compact disk as part of the application and "incorporated by reference". Files contained on the disk were listed on page 1 along with their dates of October 15, 2001 and the size of each listed file. These files comprise computer software for the COW system addressed by paragraph 8 of the Rule 131 Declaration of Nancy J. Dodd, Charla M. Parker, Allison Mangin, Joanne A. Stewart, Traci L. Whitney, and Robert Johnston submitted herewith, and are further evidence of the actual reduction to practice of the invention prior to November 22, 2001.

7. A true copy of the presently pending claims, claims 1-32, as amended by the Amendment dated December 8, 2009, is attached hereto as Exhibit C. As this date of filing has not yet occurred, it will be filled in by hand once the date is determined.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both as set forth in 18 U.S.C. 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Executed on December 2, 2009

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter H. Priest", written over a horizontal line.

Peter H. Priest

(19) **United States** **EXHIBIT A**

(12) **Patent Application**
Sellers et al.
S 2001/0044773 A1
Nov. 22, 2001

(43) **Pub. Date:**

(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
AUTOMATICALLY OBTAINING LOSS
MITIGATION LOAN WORKOUT DECISIONS**
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **G06F 17/60**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/38; 705/36**

(76) **Inventors:** **Sheila Sellers, Raleigh, NC (US);**
Marquita Webb, Holly Springs, NC
(US); Athanasia Antonopolo, Raleigh,
NC (US); Dorothy Mellin, Raleigh, NC
(US); Stephanie Galinski, Raleigh, NC
(US); Rana Crews, Raleigh, NC (US);
R. Greg Perry, Raleigh, NC (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems and techniques are described for automatically obtaining loan workout approvals. One described system includes a network of personal computers connected into a network administered by a central server computer. Each personal computer in the network includes a network interface for transmitting servicer inputs to, and receiving outputs from, the server computer. Each personal computer in the network further includes display screens for receiving inputs from, and providing outputs to, the servicer on behalf of a financially troubled borrower, including inputs and outputs relating to a proposed workout. The central server computer runs automatic workout approval analysis software and has access to electronically stored information relating to the financially troubled borrower and other information necessary to the approval process. The central server computer transmits to the servicer on behalf of the financially troubled borrower, automatically over the network, approval of the proposed workout if certain predefined parameters are met and, if the predefined parameters are not met, providing further instructions to the servicer on behalf of the financially troubled borrower.

Correspondence Address:
PRIEST & GOLDSTEIN PLLC
529 DOGWOOD DRIVE
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27516 (US)

(21) **Appl. No.:** **09/909,439**

(22) **Filed:** **Jul. 19, 2001**
Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/788,132, filed on Feb. 16, 2001, which is a non-provisional of provisional application No. 60/193,546, filed on Mar. 31, 2000.

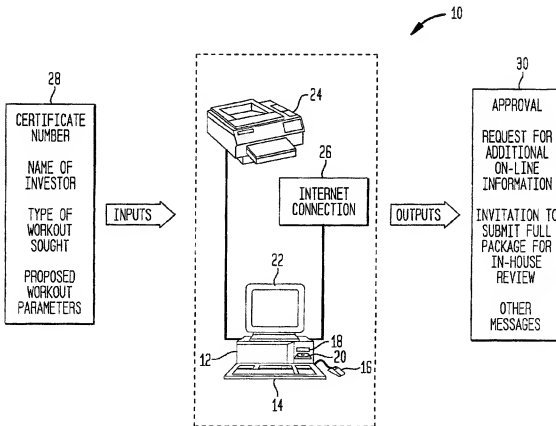


FIG. 1

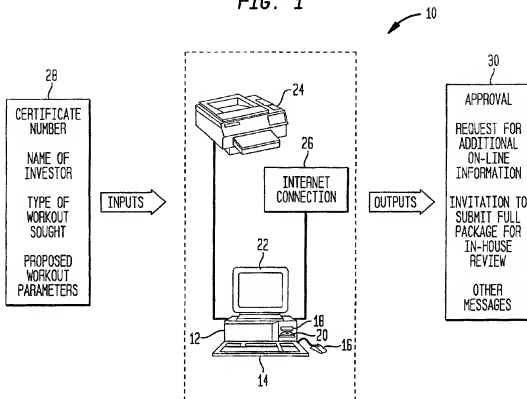


FIG. 2

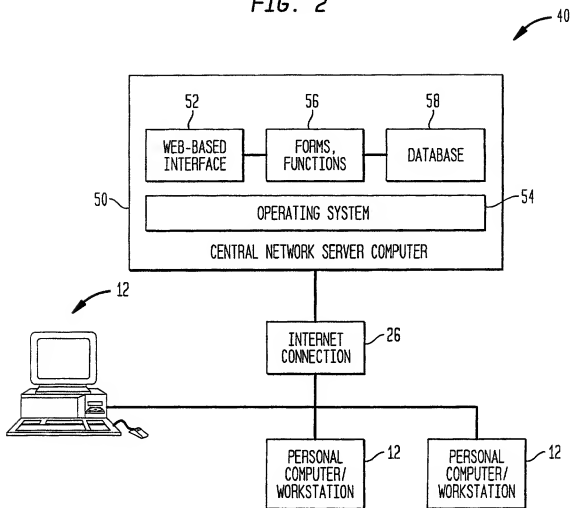


FIG. 3

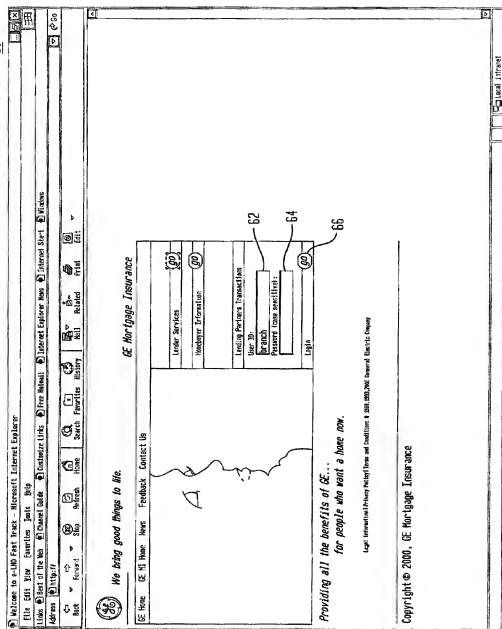


FIG. 4

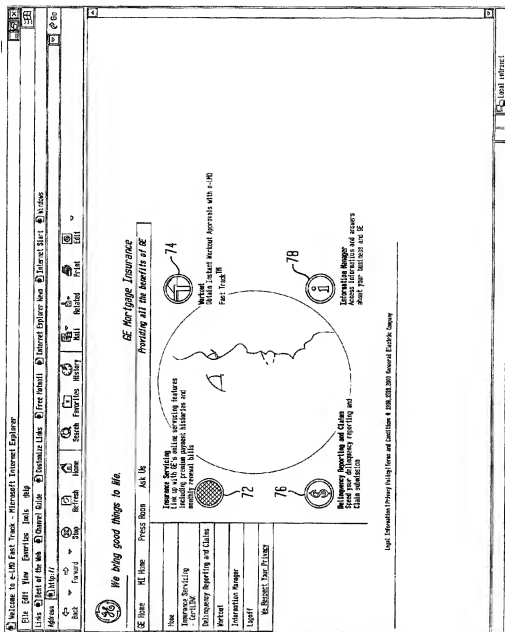


FIG. 6

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☐ Coverage Percent Enquiry from RES - Microsoft Internet Explorer
☐ The Get a New Computer Deal - Bell
☐ Links & List of the Web - ☐ Search Guide ☐ Generate Links ☐ Free Email ☐ Internet Explorer News ☐ Internet Start ☐ News

☐ Home ☐ Search ☐ Mail ☐ Favorites ☐ History ☐ Full ☐ Refresh ☐ Print ☐ Exit

☐ No long good things to do.

GE Mortgage Insurance

Certificate Number	158017451	Investor Name	Requested Work Item	MODIFICATION
Primary Borrower Name	First	LAST	First	LAST
CoBorrower Name	First	LAST	First	LAST
Other Borrower Name	First	LAST	First	LAST
Phone No.	0151 765 2731 Extn. 5000			
Property Address	1493 5TH AVENUE			
City	BEVERLYHILLS	State	IL	Zip 61008
Investor Loan No.	68631.00	Coverage	30	
Current LPR	11/17/2000	Loan Due Date	08/01/2000	
F/K Start Date	11/17/2000	F/K Sale Date	N/A	
Service Loan No.	860568282	Bankruptcy Status	N/A	

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FIG. 7

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Links: Best of the Web, Channel Guide, Customize Links, Free Email, Interest Explorer, News, Interest Start, Windows

Address: http://

Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Home, Search, Favorites, History, Mail, Related, Print, Exit

We bring good things to life.

GE Mortgage Insurance

Certificate No.	457071451	Lender's Name	Family Name	Requested Workout	MOD
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Please Validate The Following Data And Modify As Needed
(Pierced lists are required)

Primary Borrower Name
Last: DOE Last: JANE HI

CoBorrower Name
Last: Last: HI

Other Borrower Name
Last: Last: HI

Phone No. (919) 423-5667 Extn. 0000

Property Address
Street: 123 SMITH STREET

City: BELVIDERE State: IL Zip: 61008

Borrower Mailing Address
Street: State: Zip:

City: State: Zip:

Loan Due Date: MM/DD/YYYY 08/01/2000 Current UPB: 85531

FIG. 8

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Borrower Last Name	DOE	Certificate Number	
Service Loan Number	1761303	Requested Workout	MOD

WORKOUT REQUEST APPROVED subject to the following conditions:

Modified Loan Amount:	\$ 90,000.00
Interest Rate:	8.00%
Payment Term:	No Change From Current
Effective Date:	03/01/2001

Conditions Of Approval:

1. Investor approval of the modification must be obtained.
2. A copy of the Lender's executed Modification Agreement must be sent to GE within 30 days of the effective date of the modification.

☐ Accept the Workout

132

Print Approval Letter

134

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Cancel Approval

Continue

FIG. 9A

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e-LMD FAST TRACK

MOD APPROVAL

Approval Date 12/26/2000

TO: Mellin Dorothy
COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC.

RE: Lender Loan No. 6362315
Certificate No. 101737154
Borrower HOWARD AMBROSE
Property Address

This is GE Mortgage Insurance's approval of a modification to the existing terms of the above referenced mortgage loan. The approval is based on the information you have provided to and validated for GE through online FAST TRACK, including but not limited to:

Modified Loan Balance	(Only if applicable)
Modified Loan Balance GE Will Insure	(Only if applicable)
Borrower Cash Contribution	(\$\$\$\$)
Effective Date	02/01/2001
Interest Rate	No Change From Current
Payment Term	No Change From Current

The conditions of the approval are as follows:

- Investor approval of the modification must be obtained.
- GE will insure the capitalization of delinquent interest up to 105% of the original Unpaid Principal Balance. GE will allow further additional capitalization; however, GE will not insure any such additional amount.
- A copy of the Lender's executed Modification Agreement must be sent to GE within 30 days of the effective date of the Modification.

Please send the documents to the attention of: (Rep's name)
Loan Workout Center
General Electric Mortgage Insurance
6501 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27615

- If the borrower(s) is/are a discharged reaffirmed Chapter 7, a signed and court approved reaffirmation agreement must be submitted to GE. If the borrower(s) is/are a discharged non-reaffirmed Chapter 7, the Investor Rider Disclosure form must be signed by the borrower(s) and submitted to GE. If the borrower(s) is/are an Active Chapter 13, court approval must be obtained.

In the event it is determined that GE Mortgage Insurance is liable under the above referenced certificate, GE's loss would be the lesser of (i) such loss or (ii) our guaranteed percentage of the verified Claim for Loss amount. There may be other limitations to GE Mortgage Insurance paying the Claim for Loss, including:

- the above referenced certificate may be involved in a specialized transaction which was agreed to at the time of certificate issuance that may affect the claim settlement;
- any Master Policy violations that monetarily harm GE may affect the claim settlement;
- the authorization granted herein in no way constitutes any admission by GE of liability under the Master Policy with respect to the above referenced certificate, it being understood that GE is unable to determine its liability until any investigation is concluded. Additionally, GE is unable to determine if all provisions

FIG. 9B

of the Master Policy have been complied with until a review of the Claim for Loss and the supporting file are complete; and
(d) the loan file may have undergone a routine audit, the findings of which may affect your claim settlement.

Should there be any charges to the terms of this approval, or should you have any questions, please contact (Rep's Name) of the Loan Workout Center at 800-455-0871, ext....

Thank you for using GE Mortgage Insurance's e-LMO FAST TRACK.

FIG. 10A

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GE Capital

General Electric Mortgage Corporation
 A unit of GE Capital Mortgage Corporation
 5941 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27615
 919-876-4100

GEMICO PROMISSORY NOTE (UNSECURED)

DATE: February 13, 2001

MAKER(S): Happy Homeowner

MAILING ADDRESS OF MAKER(S): 1234 Lucky Landing
Harper's Ferry, WV 25425

CERTIFICATE NO.: 8101737154

PAYEE: General Electric Mortgage Insurance Corporation

PAYEE ADDRESS: (place for payment) GE Mortgage Insurance Corp.
Post Office Box 177800
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619
Attn: Accounting/Recovery

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:

<<NUMBER_HERE>>

NON-INTEREST BEARING NOTE

Annual Percentage Rate	Finance Charge	Amount Financed	Total of Payments
The cost of my yearly credit as a yearly rate	The dollar amount the credit will cost me	The amount of credit provided to me or on my behalf	The amount I will have paid after I have made all payments as scheduled
0%	\$ 0.00		

My payment schedule will be:

Number of Payments	Amount of Payments	When payments are Due
		First day of each month, commencing <<DATE_HERE>>
Final or <<NUMBER_HERE>> Payment		Final payment due <<DATE_HERE>>

1. Promise to Pay. Maker promises to pay to the order of Payee or its Assigns, at the place for payment and according to the terms of payment, the principal amount. All unpaid amounts shall be due by the final scheduled payment date.
2. Security. This loan is unsecured.
3. Prepayment. The Maker of this Note reserves the right to prepay prior to maturity all or any part of the principal of this Note without penalty.

FIG. 10B

4. Continuation of Rights. If I make a partial or late payment or make a payment Paid-in-Full and it is accepted, the Payee will still have its legal right concerning my repayment of this Note or any other note. I will remain obligated to repay this Note or any other note that replaces it, even if any other party to this Note is no longer obligated. Any legal rights that the Payee has will not be given up even if the rights are not used immediately.
5. Default. This Note shall be in Default if any payment shall be received more than ten (10) days after the due date.
6. Payee's Remedies upon Default. It is expressly provided that upon Default, the unpaid principal balance on this note shall become immediately due at the election of Payee. Maker waives all demands for payment, presentations for payment, notices of intention to accelerate maturity, notices of acceleration of maturity, protests, and notices of protests.
7. Collection. If this Note is given to an attorney or collection agency, or if suit is brought for collection, or if it is collected through probate, bankruptcy, or other judicial proceeding, then Maker shall pay Payee all costs of collection, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs in addition to other amounts due, unless prohibited by state law. Attorney's fees shall be a reasonable amount not to exceed the maximum amount permissible by state law.
8. Change in Terms of Loan and Notice. Unless Maker tells Payee of a change of address, Payee will use the address listed on this note if Maker must be contacted. Maker and Payee must make all changes in the terms of this Note in writing.
9. Responsibility of Cosigners. If more than one person signs this Note, each Maker is responsible jointly and severally for all obligations represented by this Note.
10. Law to Be Applied. This Note will be governed by the laws of North Carolina.
11. Assignment. This Note shall be fully assignable by the Payee.
12. Verification of Information. Verification or reverification of any financial documentation provided to substantiate the issuance of this note may be made at any time by the Payee, its agents, successors and assigns, either directly or through a credit-reporting agency.
13. Construction. "Maker" means the Maker or Makers. "Payee" means the Payee named above. When the context requires, singular noun and pronouns include the plural.

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS NOTE CORRECTLY
COMPLETED AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

Maker's Name: Happy Hozowner

Signature: _____ (SEAL) Date: _____

Maker's Name:
(if more than one Maker)

Signature: _____ (SEAL) Date: _____

FIG. 11

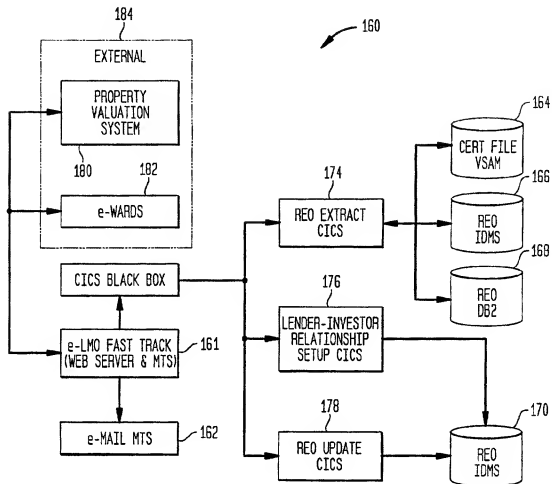


FIG. 12

FIG. 12A	FIG. 12F	FIG. 12K
FIG. 12B	FIG. 12G	
FIG. 12C	FIG. 12H	
FIG. 12D	FIG. 12I	
FIG. 12E	FIG. 12J	

FIG. 12A

E-LMO FASTTRACK

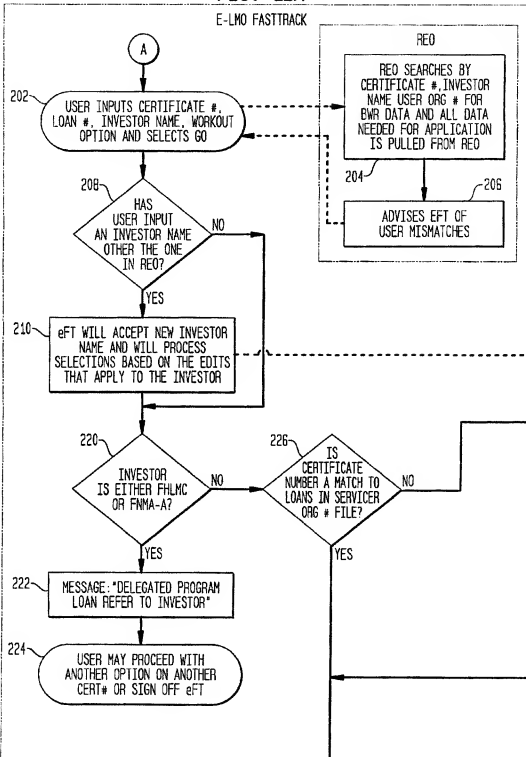


FIG. 12B

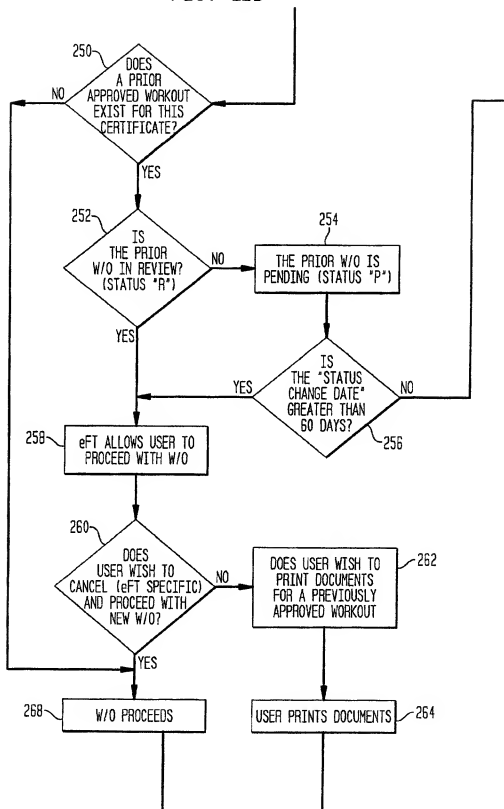


FIG. 12C

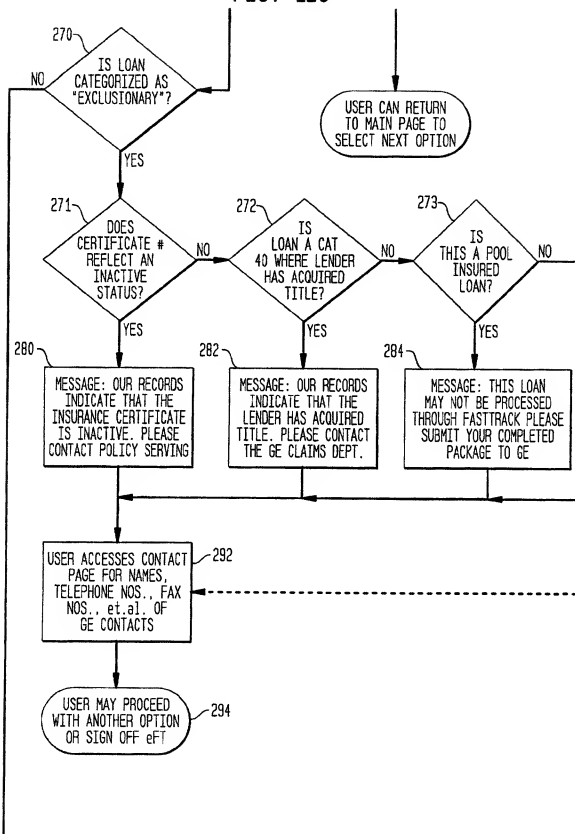


FIG. 12D

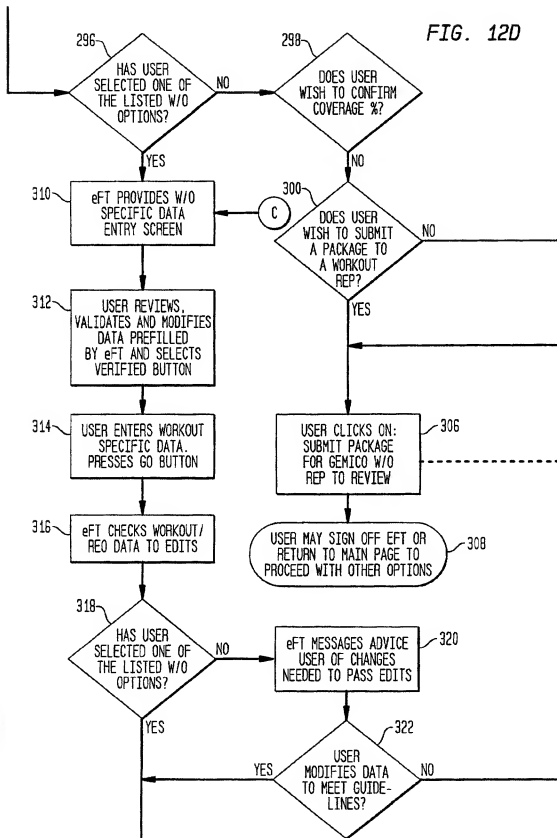


FIG. 12E

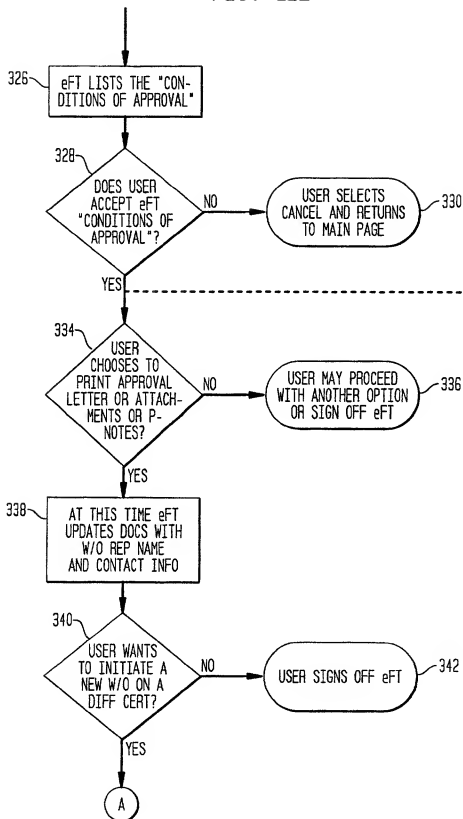


FIG. 12F

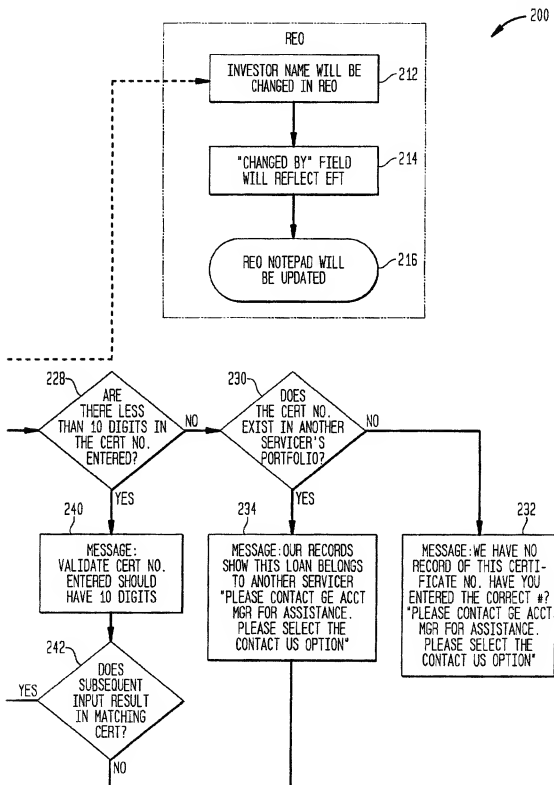


FIG. 12H

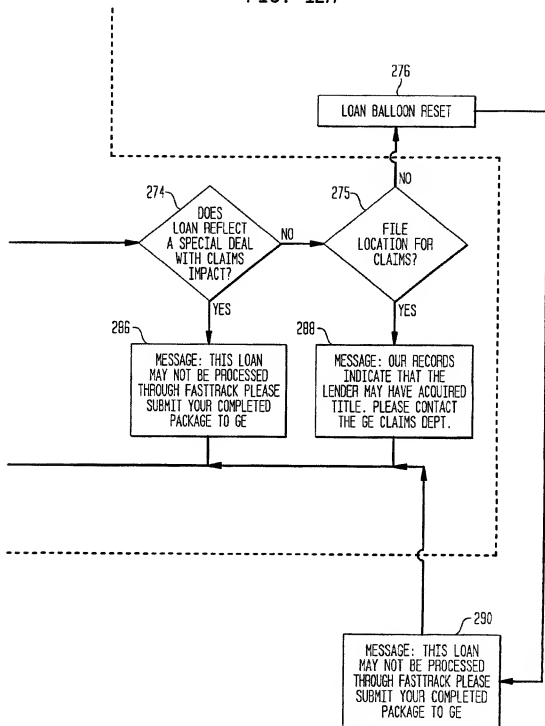


FIG. 12I

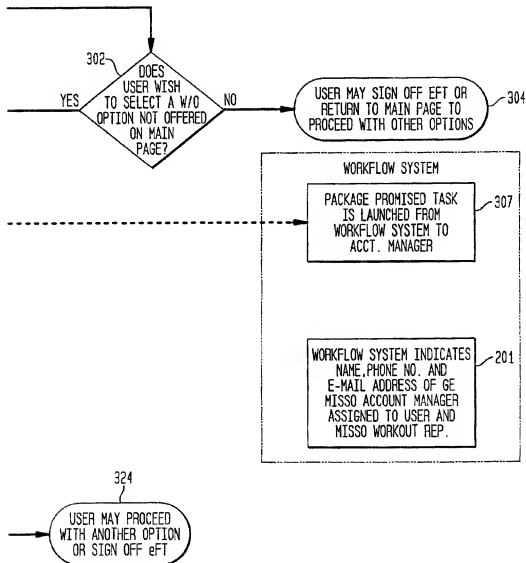


FIG. 12J

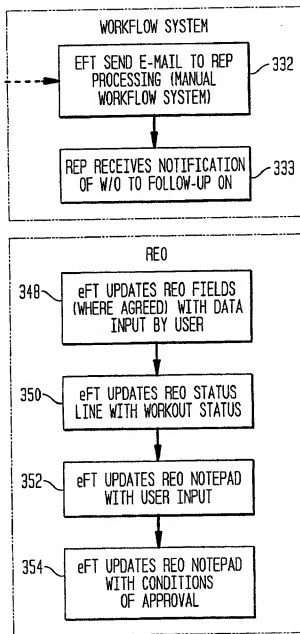


FIG. 12K

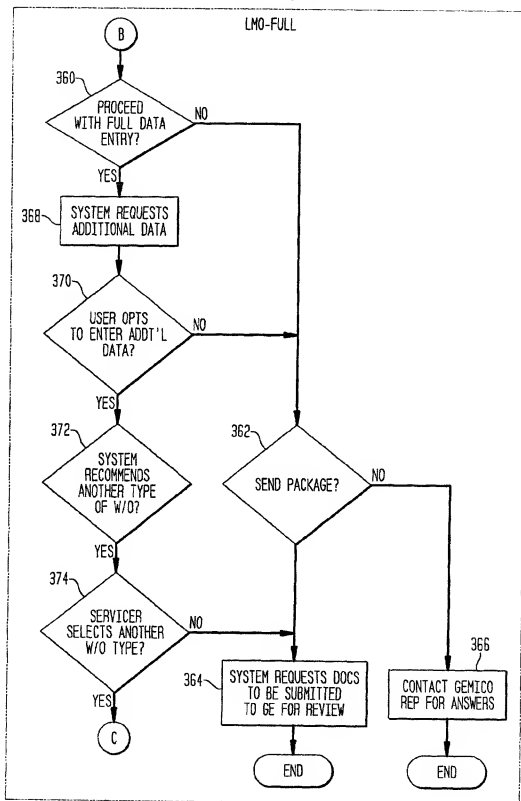


FIG. 13

FIG. 13A	FIG. 13D	FIG. 13G	FIG. 13J	FIG. 13K	FIG. 13M
FIG. 13B	FIG. 13E	FIG. 13H		FIG. 13L	FIG. 13N
FIG. 13C	FIG. 13F	FIG. 13I			

FIG. 13A

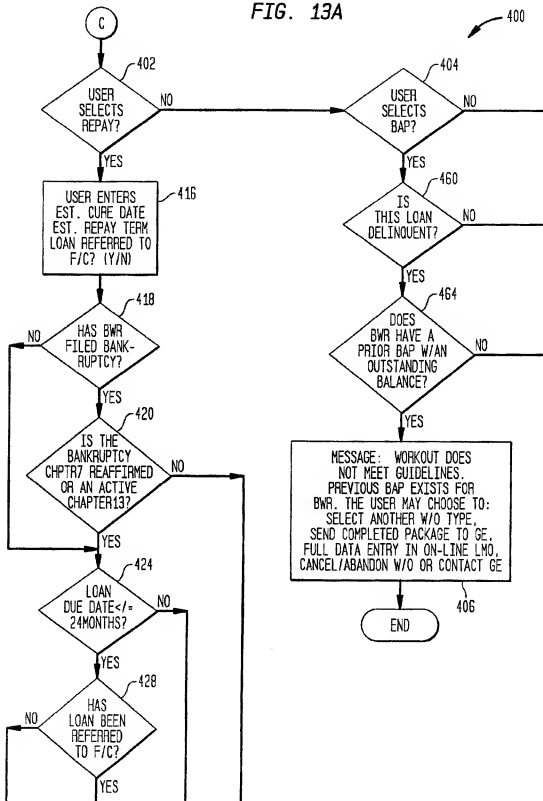


FIG. 13B

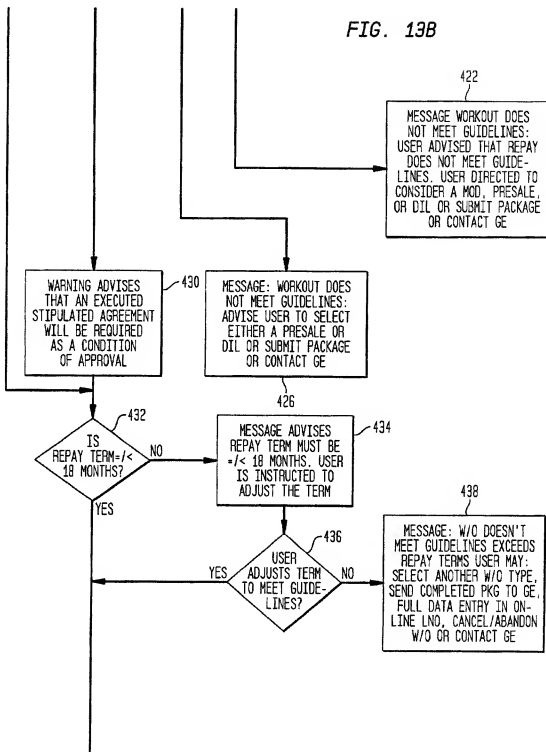


FIG. 13C

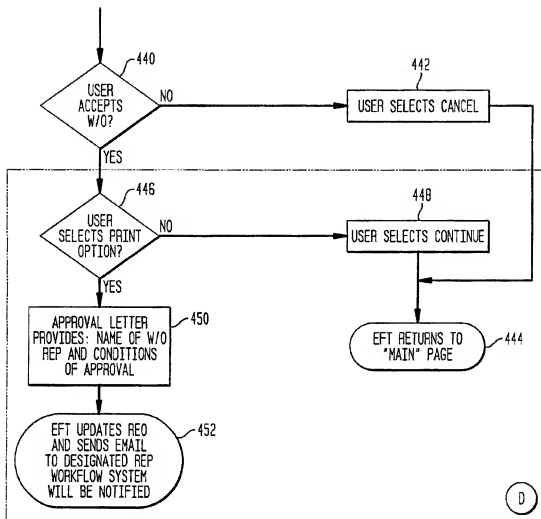
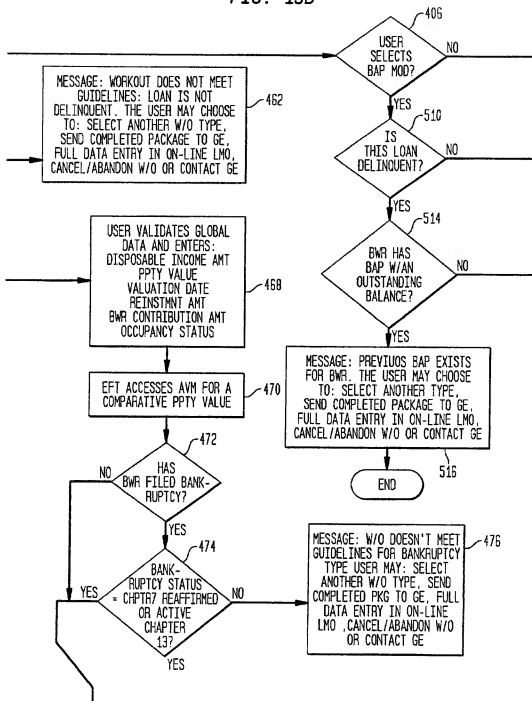


FIG. 13D



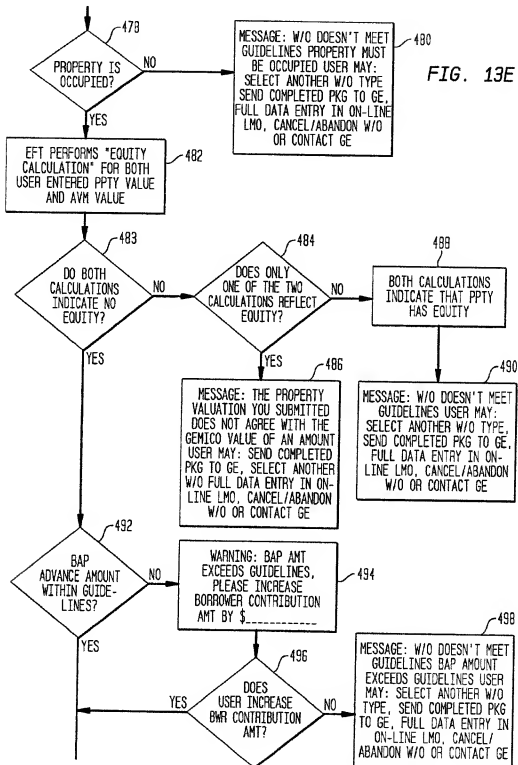


FIG. 13F

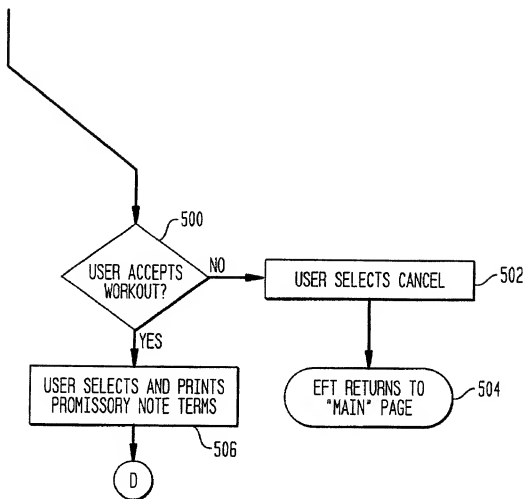


FIG. 136

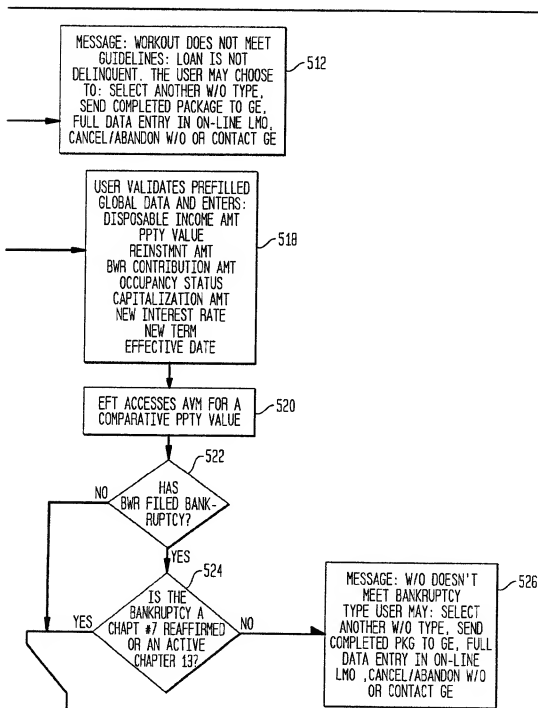


FIG. 13H

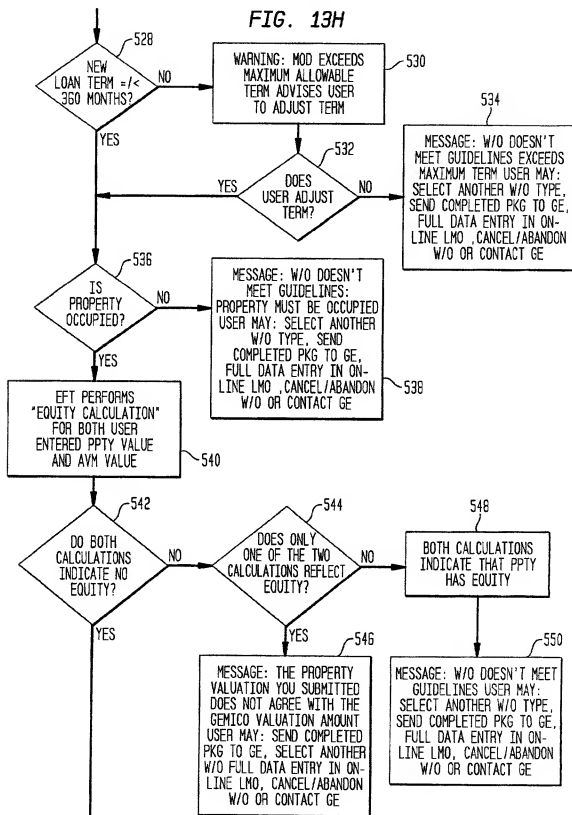


FIG. 13I

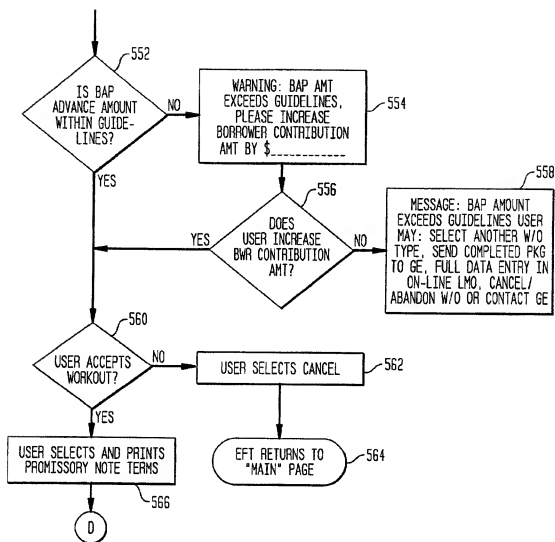


FIG. 13J

E-LMO FASTTRACK WORKOUT OPTIONS

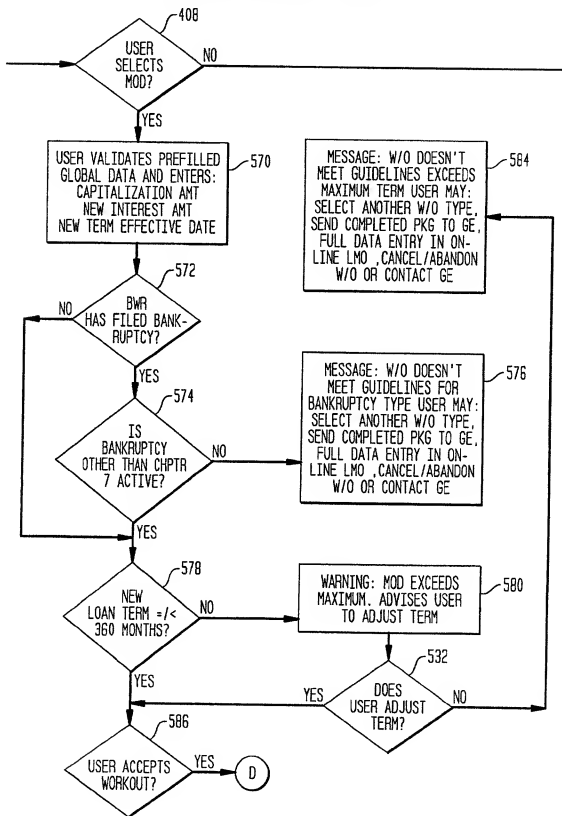


FIG. 13K

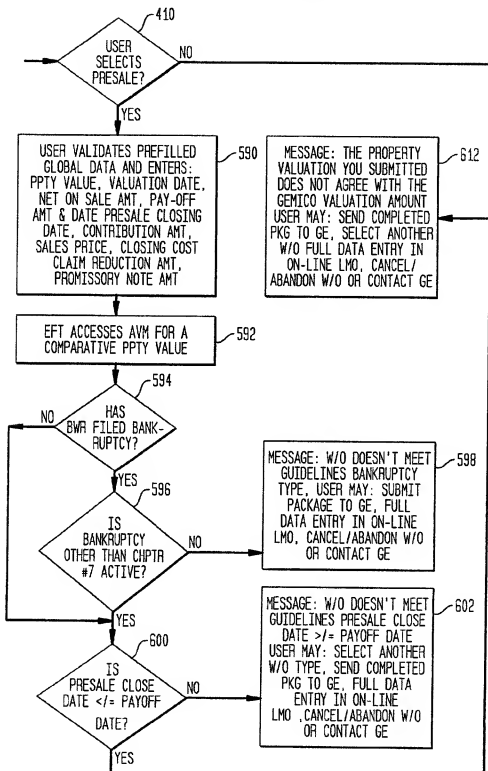


FIG. 13L

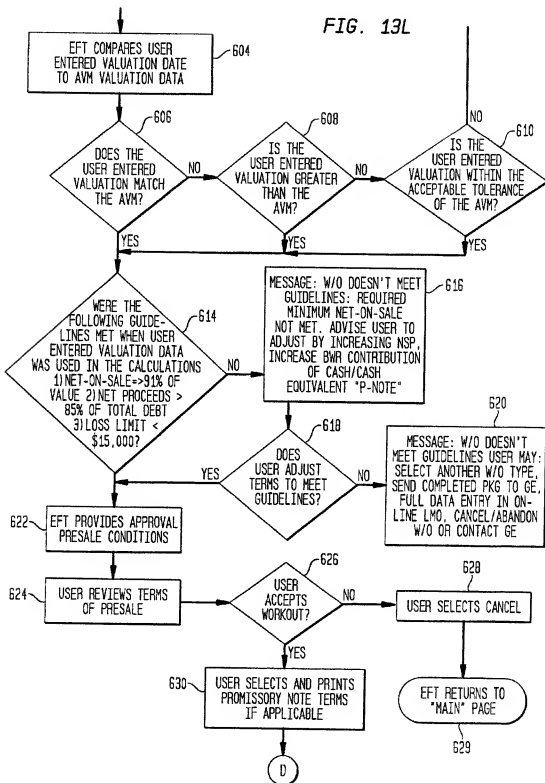


FIG. 13M

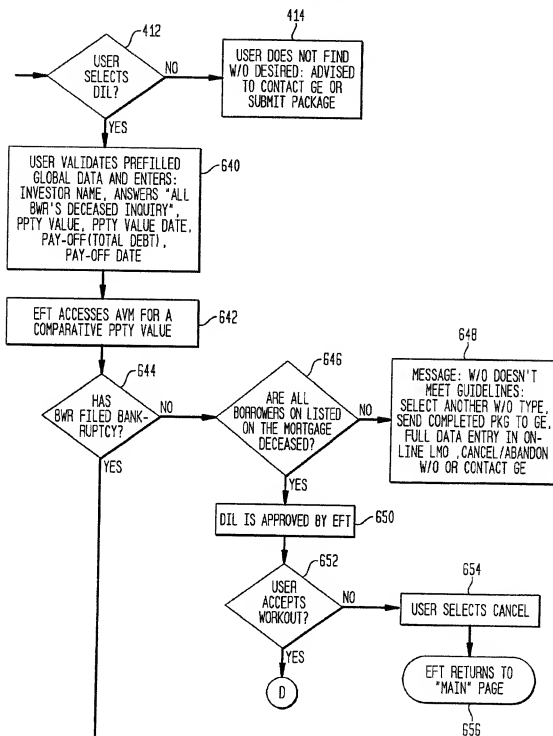


FIG. 13N

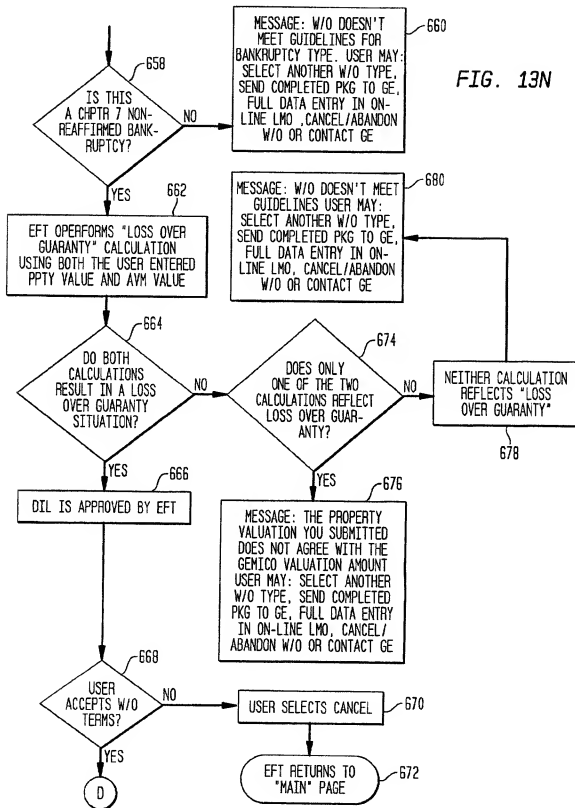


FIG. 14A-1

CURE WORKOUTS			
REPAY/FORBEAR		SOURCE	BAP
DATA	estimated cure date	srvc	positive disposable income
	estimated repay term	srvc	pty value
	loan referred to f/c (y/n)	srvc	pty value date
			reinstamt
			bwr contribution
			occupancy*
WARNINGS	Repay term must be <=18 mos		Pty value date must be <=180 days
	If loan in F/C stipulated agreement required		Previous BAP Balance exists, please choose another workout or submit pkg
			BAP amount exceeds guidelines, Please decreased advance amount by \$
NOTATION	Repayment terms s/b calculated from 1st day of month following input date		Reinstatement amt must = bwr contr + Advance amt
DOCS			Full docs if other than o/o
	*If a reactive workout does not meet CEMICO's approval parameters, the Srvc must either complete all required data fields on-line (LMO) or submit a full workout page for a sec		
	Note: Active Chapter #7, re-submit thru Fast Track or full pkg to NLWC when BK discharged		
EDITS	1. loan referred to f/c = yes. If yes F/C Start Date or F/C Sale Date must be filled in. Closing docs = Stipulated Agreement		1. If occupancy not equal to vacant 2. Bankruptcy other than chap#7 re-aff'd no BAP
	2. Maximum term > 18 months 3. Due date > 24 mos 4. Bankruptcy other than Chapter #7 re-aff'd		3. If PrevBapBalance, no BAP 4. BAP amt > 50% of total exposure and/or > \$15k 5. If eq no BAP 6. Due Date > 24 mos

FIG. 14A-2

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SOURCE	MOD	SOURCE
srvc	cap amount	srvc
srvc	new interest rate	srvc
srvc	new term	srvc
srvc	effective date	srvc
srvc	*see edit below re: BK	
srvc		
	MOD term exceeds maximum allowable term	
	Trustee Doc, Freddie Rider, Fannie language in approval ltr	
	select another workout option within Fast Track, and review.	
	ed or dismissed is selected	
	1. Term > 361 mos 2. Due Date > 24 mos 3. Active chap #7	

FIG. 14A-3

BAP MOD	SOURCE	GLOBAL DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL W/O TYPES	SOURCE
positive disposable income	srvc	SECURE ID	srvc
ppty value	srvc	PASSWORD	srvc
ppty value date	srvc	LENDER LOAN #	srvc
reinstent amt	srvc	GE CERTIFICATE #	srvc
bwr contribution	srvc	WORKOUT TYPE SELECT	srvc
occupancy*	srvc	INVESTOR NAME	srvc
cap amount		BANKRUPTCY STATUS	srvc
new interest rate		LOAN DUE DATE1	srvc
new term		BWR/COSWR NAME	GE-editable
effective date		PPTY ADDR	GE-editable
*see edit below re: BK		PHONE #	GE-editable
Ppty value date must be <= 180 days		BWR MAILING ADDR	GE-editable
Previous BAP Balance exists, please choose another workout or submit		% OF COVERAGE	GE
BAP amount exceeds guidelines. Please decreased advance amount		UPB	GE-editable
MOD term exceeds maximum allowable term		F/C START DATE	GE-editable
		F/C SALE DATE	GE-editable
Trustee Doc, Freddie Rider, Fannie language in approval ltr			
Full docs if other than o/o			
1. Occupancy-vacant 2. Bankruptcy other than chap7 re-aff'd no BAP			
3. If PrevBapBalance, no BAP MOD 4. BAP amt > 50% of total exposure 5. If eq no BAP MOD 6. Term > 361 mos 7. Due date > 24 mos			

FIG. 14B-1

NON-CURE WORKOUTS		
	PRESALE	SOURCE
DATA	ppty value	srvc
	ppty value date	srvc
	net on sale amount	srvc
	pay-off (total debt)	srvc
	pay-off date	srvc
	pre sale closing date	srvc
	contribution amount*	srvc
	sales price	srvc
	closing cost	srvc
	claim reduction amount	srvc
	p-note amt	srvc
WARNINGS	NOS - 91% of FMV	Deed must be recorded within 30 days of approval
	Ppty value date must be <= 180 days	Must contact LMC for extensions
	Pre-Sale date must = Pay-off date	
	Closing date cannot exceed 60 days from approval date	
	Must contact LMC for extensions	
DOCS	If a reactive workout does not meet GEMICO's approval parameters, the Srvc must either complete all required data fields on-line (LMD) or submit a full workout page for a	
EDITS	1. Net on sale <91% of value 2. maximum loss limit > \$15,000 3. net process <85% of total debt - cash contr/cash	1. f/c sale date < 30 days 2. Not all Bwrs deceased
	4. Ppty value date > 180 days (take this edit out when valuation system in place) 5. Closing >60 days from approval	

Excluded Loans:
Special Deals:
Advanced/Select:

Pool
FNMA
FHLMC

Balloon Re-set Mortgages
Second Mortgages (?)
Cancelled Certs

FIG. 14B-2

SOURCE	NON-REAFF CHIP 7 PRESALE	SOURCE
srvc	ppty value*	srvc
	ppty value date	srvc
	net on sale amount	srvc
	pay-off (total debt)	srvc
	pay-off date	srvc
	pre sale closing date	srvc
	contribution amount*	srvc
	sales price	
	closing cost	
	LMO must be turned off, full pkg submission required	
	NOS - 91% of FMV	
	Ppty value date must be <= 180 days	
	Pre-Sale date must = Pay-off date	
	Closing date cannot exceed 60 days from approval date	
	Must contact LWC for extensions	
er select another	workout option within Fast Track,	
second review.		
	1. Net on sale <91% of value 2. maximum loss limit > \$15,000 3. Ppty value date > 180 days (take this edit out when valuation system in place)	

Note: Notification of ETD's and FPD's via
e-mail to investigators
Loan Due date = Last Paid Installment + One Month

FIG. 14B-3

700

NON-REAFF CHP 7 DIL	SOURCE	GLOBAL DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL WFO TYPES	SOURCE
pty value*	srvc	SECURE ID	srvc
pty value date	srvc	PASSWORD	srvc
net on sale amount	srvc	LENDER LOAN #	srvc
pay-off (total debt)	srvc	GE CERTIFICATE #	srvc
		WORKOUT TYPE SELECT	srvc
		INVESTOR NAME	srvc
		BANKRUPTCY STATUS	srvc
		LOAN DUE DATE1	srvc
		BWR/COBWR NAME	GE-editable
		PPTY ADDR	GE-editable
		PHONE #	GE-editable
		BWR MAILING ADDR	GE-editable
Pty value date must be <= 180 days		% OF COVERAGE	GE
		UPB	GE-editable
Closing date cannot exceed 60 days from approval date		F/C START DATE	GE-editable
Must contact LWC for extensions		F/C SALE DATE	GE-editable
1.If loss Over Guarantee: If Total Debt - (BPD*.90)>TotalDebt*% Covg then OK to do DIL 2.Pty value date > 180 days (take this edit out when valuation system in place)			

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR AUTOMATICALLY OBTAINING LOSS MITIGATION LOAN WORKOUT DECISIONS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 09/788,132 filed on Feb. 16, 2001 by the same inventors as the present application.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates generally to improvements to systems and methods for applying for loans and particularly to systems and methods for automatically obtaining loss mitigation loan workout decisions.

[0004] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0005] A mortgage borrower may fall behind on loan payments during periods of financial hardship. In addition to the relief afforded by the bankruptcy laws, a borrower may also seek relief by negotiating a workout with a lender. There are a number of different workout arrangements, ranging from a simple agreement to catch up on delinquent payments by a certain date to deciding the real estate secured by the mortgage to the lender in lieu of payment.

[0006] Traditionally, borrowers negotiated workouts with a workout representative or other employee of the lending institution. The process would typically require the borrower to fill out a proposal for a workout, which would then be submitted to the workout representative for review. If more information were required, the workout representative would have to contact the borrower. The workout representative would then have to analyze the workout proposal to determine whether the proposal fell within the workout guidelines established by the lending institution. Thus, the workout process required a significant amount of time on the part of the workout representative. This, in turn, limited the number of workouts that could be negotiated by a lending institution.

[0007] There is thus a need for systems and methods for automatically providing workout decisions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The above-described issues and others are addressed by the present invention, one aspect of which provides a system for automatically obtaining loan workout approvals. The system includes a network of personal computers connected into an Internet via a web browser. Each personal computer connected to the Internet has access to an interface for entering borrower information to, and receiving outputs from, the web server. Each personal computer connected to the Internet has access to display screens for providing outputs to a servicer including information relating to a proposed workout. The web server computer runs automatic workout approval analysis software and has access to electronically stored information relating to the financially troubled borrower and other information necessary to the approval analysis process. The web server computer transmits to the servicer for the financially troubled borrower, automatically over the web, approval of the proposed workout if certain predefined parameters are

met and, if the predefined parameters are not met, providing further instructions to servicer for the financially troubled borrower.

[0009] Additional features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent by reference to the following detailed description and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 shows a diagram of the front end of a system for automatically obtaining workout approvals according to the present invention.

[0011] FIG. 2 shows a diagram of a network according to a further aspect of the present invention.

[0012] FIG. 3 shows a web page that can be used to access a website on which software components of the present invention are made available over an Internet connection.

[0013] FIG. 4 shows a further web page, accessible from the web page shown in FIG. 3, providing access to software components of the present invention.

[0014] FIG. 5 shows a home page for software components of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 6 shows a web page containing borrower information relating to a loan for which a workout is sought.

[0016] FIG. 7 shows a web page containing data boxes for viewing and modifying information relating to a loan for which a workout is sought.

[0017] FIG. 8 shows a web page setting forth Conditions of Approval for a proposed workout.

[0018] FIGS. 9A and 9B show first and second pages of an exemplary Approval Letter according to a further aspect of the invention.

[0019] FIGS. 10A and 10B show first and second pages of an exemplary Promissory Note according to a further aspect of the invention.

[0020] FIG. 11 shows a diagram of a system architecture according to a further aspect of the invention.

[0021] FIG. 12 shows a diagram of a flowchart of a method according to a further aspect of the invention. Because of size considerations, FIG. 12 has been divided into a 3x5 matrix, numbered FIGS. 12A1-5, 12B1-5, and 12C1-5.

[0022] FIG. 13 shows a diagram of a flowchart of workout methods according to a further aspect of the invention. Because of size considerations, FIG. 13 has been divided into a 4x3 matrix, numbered FIGS. 13A1-3, 13B1-3, 13C1-3 and 13D-13.

[0023] FIGS. 14A and 14B set forth a data matrix that illustrates the data inputs required for the various workouts handles by the e-LMO Fast Track system and other information relating to the processing these data inputs in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0024] A first aspect of the present invention provides systems and methods for automatically providing workout approvals. According to a first embodiment of the invention,

these automatic systems and methods are designed to function in conjunction with a traditional workout process. The automatic systems and methods are used to give approvals on workouts that meet certain predetermined guidelines. If these guidelines are not met, then the traditional workout decision making process is used, in which a full proposal is submitted to a workout representative for review.

[0025] The presently described systems and methods are collectively referred to herein as the Electronic Loss Mitigation Optimizer ("e-LMO") Fast Track. According to a further aspect of the invention, the e-LMO Fast Track is implemented over the Internet or other network, using a web-based interface. The e-LMO Fast Track is accessed remotely by a loan servicer on behalf of a troubled debtor.

[0026] At present, workout recommendations from loan servicers are sent to mortgage institutions as a hard copy or as a faxed workout package. This package is subsequently reviewed by a mortgage workout representative. Decisions and negotiated terms are communicated back to the loan servicer by phone and written confirmation. The e-LMO Fast Track system enables a loan servicer to submit workout recommendations over the Internet, or another network connection, with a minimum of data and no hard copy of the workout package. If the mortgage insurer's predetermined workout parameters are met, the servicer will receive automatic approval and an approval letter over the Internet. If the workout parameters are not met, the loan servicer is offered alternate options including but not limited to choosing another workout or sending in a full package for in-house review.

[0027] FIG. 1 shows a diagram of the front end of a first embodiment of a system 10 according to the present invention. In this embodiment of the invention, a loan servicer enters inputs concerning the proposed workout into a personal computer 12 or workstation. The personal computer 12 is equipped with suitable input and output devices. In the pictured embodiment, these devices include a keyboard 14, a mouse 16, a monitor 22, and a printer 24. The particular input and output devices used in conjunction with the personal computer 12 may be modified, as needed, without departing from the spirit of the present invention. The personal computer 12 is further provided with an Internet connection 26.

[0028] As described in further detail below, the e-LMO Fast Track system provides a series of Web pages at the monitor 22 for receiving inputs from, and providing outputs to, the loan servicer. These inputs into the system include information identifying the borrower, as well as information specific to a proposed workout. These inputs are then transmitted over the Internet connection 26 to a web server computer. The web server computer then makes a determination, based upon predetermined parameters, as to whether the proposed workout is acceptable.

[0029] The results of the determination by the central server computer are displayed to the loan servicer on the monitor 22. If the proposed workout is approved, an approval screen is displayed on the monitor. In addition, if desired, an approval letter may be printed out at the printer 24. If, however, it is determined that the parameters have not been met, then the web server computer will either send a request for additional information to be inputted into the system, or offer alternative options such as choosing another

workout or the submission of a full package for in-house review by a workout representative.

[0030] FIG. 2 shows a diagram of an overall network 40 according to a further aspect of the invention. As shown in FIG. 2, the network 40 includes personal computers 12 or workstations, such as the personal computer illustrated in FIG. 1, that are connected via an Internet connection 26 to a web server computer 50 that functions as a network server. The central server computer 50 includes a web-based interface 52 running on a suitable operating system platform 54, such as Windows NT.

[0031] In the present embodiment of the invention, the e-LMO Fast Track system is implemented using forms and functions 56 that have been created using a template-based application. These forms and functions 56 are used in the transmission of data between the personal computers 12 on the Internet and the web server computer 50. As described below, the forms and functions 56 have access to a database 58 and other information required in determining whether a proposed workout is acceptable.

[0032] Because, in the present embodiment, the e-LMO Fast Track system is web-based, the system can be accessed using a suitable web browser, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator, and inputting the correct URL address to arrive at the website at which the e-LMO Fast Track system is located. FIG. 3 shows a screenshot of a login screen 60 that appears when the website is accessed. The loan servicer gains access to the e-LMO Fast Track system by entering a suitable User ID and Password in the boxes 62 and 64 provided, and then clicking on the "Go" button 66.

[0033] Assuming that the login has been successful, FIG. 4 shows a screenshot of the web page 70 that is accessed by pressing the "Go" button on the FIG. 3 screen. As shown in FIG. 4, this portion of the website includes four services: Insurance Servicing 72, Workout 74, Delinquency Reporting and Claims 76, and Information Manager 78.

[0034] In order to access the e-LMO Fast Track system, the user clicks on the "Workout" button or, alternatively, on the "Workout" box 80 in the navigation bar 82 at the left of the web page 70. Selecting "Workout" brings up the web page 90 shown in FIG. 5. This web page 90 is the home page for the e-LMO Fast Track system. The loan servicer's name appears in the salutation 92 at the top of the page.

[0035] At the left of the page, there is a navigation bar 94 containing the following menu entries: e-LMO Home, Workout History, Submit Package, e-Wards, Contact Us, Report Problems, Training and Logoff. This navigation bar 94 appears on all of the web pages in the e-LMO Fast Track system to provide a convenient way of navigating between pages. The e-LMO Home button returns the system user to the home page shown in FIG. 5. The Workout History button allows the user to look at and work with workouts that are already in the system. The Submit Package button is used when the e-LMO Fast Track system cannot be used for a particular workout and the system user wishes to prepare a fully documented package for consideration by a workout representative. According to a further aspect of the invention, the Submit Package button calls up a web page that provides information relating to the submission of a document-based, hard copy workout proposal to be submitted to a workout representative for approval. The e-Wards button

is used to connect to an incentive program, in which a loan servicer accumulates points for each completed workout. These points may subsequently be redeemed for merchandise or other incentive items. The Contact Us button provides a link to an email messaging system that allows the user to email a workout representative. The Report Problems button provides a link to an email messaging system that allows the user to report problems to a technical representative. The Training button provides a link to online training. Finally, the Logoff button allows the user to log out of the e-LMO system.

[0036] As further shown in FIG. 5, the e-LMO Fast Track home page includes a number of data entry boxes for receiving inputs from the user of the system. These include a box 96 for receiving the Certificate Number of the mortgage insurance policy covering the mortgage for which the workout is being sought, a box 98 for the name of the investor to whom the mortgage was sold on the secondary market, and a box 100 indicating the specific type of workout being sought. In addition, there is a button labeled "% Coverage." If the loan servicer would like to know the percentage of the mortgage covered by mortgage insurance for a particular loan, the loan servicer enters the Certificate Number, and then clicks on the "% Coverage" button. Clicking on this button will bring the user to the web page 110 shown in FIG. 6.

[0037] As shown in FIG. 6, the "% Coverage" page 110 includes information about the borrower, as well as information about the loan. The loan information includes the Investor Loan Number, Coverage, the Current Unpaid Balance ("UPB"), the Loan Due Date, the Foreclosure ("F/C") Start Date, the Foreclosure Sale Date, the Servicer Loan Number, and the Bankruptcy Status. Once the review of this information is completed, the user of the system clicks on the back button to return to the home page 90, shown in FIG. 5. Alternatively, the user may also use the navigation bar 94 to go directly to other pages in the website.

[0038] Returning to FIG. 5, it will be seen that the present embodiment of the invention provides for six basic types of workouts that can be handled using the e-LMO Fast Track system: Repay/Forbear, Borrower Assistance Program ("BAP"), Loan Modification ("MOD"), BAP Modification ("BAP MOD"), Pre-sale, and Deed-in-Lieu ("DIL"). Each of these types of work arrangements is described below.

[0039] The particular workout arrangement sought in a particular situation depends upon the reason that the borrower has become delinquent in making loan payments. If the borrower's financial hardships are temporary in nature, the borrower may seek simply to arrange to repay the delinquent amounts by a certain date, while keeping the original loan terms intact. If the borrower's financial hardship are permanent, then the borrower may seek a modification of the loan terms, or may even sell or give up the financed real estate as part of the settlement of the outstanding amounts.

[0040] The present invention provides for the following scenarios:

[0041] 1. Repayment/Forbearance: The borrower has suffered a temporary financial setback, but will soon have the funds to pay back the delinquent amounts owed. The loan servicer and the mortgage insurance company agree to delay

foreclosure, and the borrower promises to pay the entire arrearage, or the full debt, by a specific date, in addition to returning to a normal payment schedule.

[0042] 2. Borrower Assistance Program ("BAP"). The borrower desires to retain the property, but needs time to obtain the funds to pay back the delinquent amounts owed. In this scenario, in order to qualify for a workout using the e-LMO Fast Track System, the borrower must have the desire and the ability to make payments, little or no equity in the mortgage property, and employment or other steady income source to start within 90 days. In a BAP workout, the borrower signs a promissory note, with a term determined by the mortgagee, and with approval by the mortgage investor.

[0043] 3. Loan Modification ("MOD"). The borrower has experienced a permanent change in his or her ability to make payments, and the facts and circumstances indicate a likely resolution of the delinquency if the loan terms are suitably modified. Specifically, in this type of workout, there is a modification of the interest rate, the type of mortgage product offered, the amount of capitalization of the loan, and/or the term of the loan, to effect a permanent cure.

[0044] 4. BAP Modification ("BAP MOD"). If the borrower is not able to contribute all or part of the defaulted amount, the borrower may agree to sign a promissory note for the amount advanced by the mortgage insurance company.

[0045] 5. Pre-sale. If the borrower is financially unable to stay in the home, the property may be placed on the market. In that case, a workout arrangement may be negotiated that takes into account the expected sales price of the property.

[0046] 6. Deed-in-lieu. If the borrower is financially unable to make up the delinquent payments or to resume regular loan payments, another option is for the borrower to negotiate a workout arrangement that includes deeding the property to the mortgage lender. Obviously, this is a drastic remedy that is typically used only as a last resort.

[0047] Clicking on one of the options on the menu 100 of workout options shown in FIG. 5 will cause the web page 120 shown in FIG. 7 to appear. The screen includes a number of data entry boxes 122 containing borrower information that has been pre-filled by the system, based upon information contained in the mainframe central server. As described below, one of the first steps in the automated workout approval process is to confirm that this information is correct. Corrections are made by making appropriate inputs into the boxes containing the borrower information. When the loan servicer is satisfied that the borrower information is correct, he or she checks the box indicating the information has been verified and is correct.

[0048] Once the borrower information has been verified, the loan servicer or other user of the system is brought to a web page that is designed to receive inputs specific to the type of workout that is being sought. Once those inputs have been entered into the system, the system determines whether the workout satisfies the predetermined guidelines. The system is designed to prompt the loan servicer to make changes to the inputted information, as needed. If the servicer officer, working with the borrower, is unable to satisfy the e-LMO Fast Track guidelines, the system offers alternatives to the servicer, including the option to submit a full workout package to a workout representative for review or choose another workout.

[0049] If the workout is approved, then web page 130 shown in FIG. 8, or a similar screen for each of the applicable workout approvals, will be displayed. This screen states that the workout request has been approved, and sets forth the conditions of approval. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the modified loan amount, the interest rate, the payment term, the effective date, and the like, and further sets forth conditions of approval.

[0050] If the borrower accepts the terms of the workout, the user of the system clicks on the button 132 labeled "Accept the Workout." Also, the user may request the system to print out an approval letter by clicking on the button labeled "Print Approval Letter." If the user does not wish to accept the workout conditions, the user clicks on the button 136 labeled "Cancel Approval." The system will also print out a promissory note, as required. An example of an Approval Letter 140 is set forth in FIGS. 9A and 9B. An example of a Promissory Note 150 is set forth in FIGS. 10A and 10B. The terms of the Promissory Note 150 are automatically filled out by the e-LMO Fast Track system.

[0051] FIG. 11 shows a diagram of a system architecture 160 according to a further embodiment of the invention. At the core of the system is the e-LMO Fast Track software 161, which is run on a central computer that functions as a web server and a Microsoft Transaction Server ("MTS"). The central computer communicates with users of the system using email and MTS 162. The web pages used by the e-LMO Fast Track system may be implemented using Hypertext Markup Language ("HTML").

[0052] In the FIG. 11 embodiment, the various data that are access by the system are stored on suitable storage devices 164-170 using multiple database management systems, including Virtual Storage Access Method ("VSAM"), Integrated Database Management System ("IDMS"), DB2 and Oracle. One storage device 164 contains the certificate file. The other storage devices 166-170 are used to store other data for the mainframe, referred to herein as the Real Estate Owned ("REO") mainframe.

[0053] A number of Customer Information Control System ("CICS") interfaces 172-178 are provided between the storage devices 164-170 and the e-LMO Fast Track software 160. These interfaces 172-178 ensure the compatibility of data formats, field requirements, and the like. The CICS interfaces include an REO Extract interface 172 for extracting data from the storage devices, a Lender-Investor Relationship Setup interface 174 for setting up relationships between lenders and investors, and an REO update interface 176 for updating information in the REO mainframe.

[0054] As shown in FIG. 11, the Property Valuation System 180 and e-Wards System 182 are external to the e-LMO Fast Track system and are illustrated as being outside of the firewall 184. However, in an alternative embodiment of the invention, certain components of the Property Valuation System 180 are brought within the firewall for integration into the operations of the REO mainframe.

[0055] FIG. 12 shows a flowchart illustrating a method 200 according to a further aspect of the present invention. Because of size considerations, FIG. 12 has been divided into a 3x5 matrix numbered FIGS. 12A1-5, 12B-15, and 12C1-5. These figures are collectively referred to as FIG.

12. As shown in FIG. 12, the method 200 includes actions performed by four systems. The e-LMO Fast Track system provides the immediate interaction with the system user. The REO system is the source of borrower and loan information, as well as workout information. The Workflow System is a task manager software package that, in a further embodiment of the invention, runs in conjunction with the e-LMO Fast Track system. Among other things, as shown in step 201, the Workflow System provides information regarding account managers and workout representatives. In addition, the Workflow System provides a scheduling and reminder function to facilitate the workout process. The LMO-Full Document Online system is an online system that provides information relating to workouts, and can be used to provide recommendations of suitable workout structures based upon user inputs. Once the recommendations have been obtained, the user may proceed either by using the e-LMO Fast Track system, assuming the e-LMO guidelines have been met, or by making a traditional document-based, hard copy submission to a workout representative.

[0056] The start of the method 200 is indicated by node A. In step 202, the user inputs the certificate number, the investor name, and workout option and selects Go. This information can be entered, for example, on a web page such as page 90 illustrated in FIG. 5, and discussed above. This information is transmitted over the Internet to the REO mainframe. In step 204, the REO mainframe searches the databases, using the inputted data, for borrower data and all other data needed for the workout application. In step 206, the REO mainframe advises the e-LMO Fast Track of any user mismatches.

[0057] In step 208, the system determines whether the user has inputted as an input an investor name that is not stored in the REO mainframe. If a new investor name has been entered, then in step 210, the e-LMO Fast Track system will accept the new investor name and process selections based upon edits that apply to that investor. In addition, in step 212, the investor name will be changed in the REO mainframe. In step 214, the "changed by" field in the REO mainframe will reflect the information entered into the e-LMO Fast Track system, and in step 216, the REO notepad will be updated.

[0058] In step 220, the system determines, based upon the inputted information, whether the mortgage investor is either FHLMC or FNMA-A, or some other investor program that cannot be handled by the e-LMO Fast Track System. If so, then in step 222, the user is informed that the workout is to be referred to the investor. In step 224, the user may proceed with another workout for another certificate number.

[0059] If the investor is one that allows the workout to proceed, then in step 226, the system determines whether the certificate number matches a loan stored in the mainframe. If there is no match, then in step 228, the system checks to make sure that there are ten digits in the certificate number entered. If ten digits have in fact been entered, then in step 230, the system looks to see whether the certificate number exists in another servicer's portfolio. If not, then in step 232, the system provides the following error message: "We have no record of this Certificate No. Have you entered the correct certificate number? Please contact an Account Manager for assistance. Please select the 'Contact Us' option."

[0060] If in step 230 it is determined that the certificate number exists in another servicer's portfolio, then in step 234, the following message is provided: "Our records show this loan belongs to another servicer. Please contact an Account Manager for assistance. Please select the 'Contact Us option.' In step 236, the user is advised of the contact name and the address and fax number. In step 238, the user can return to the Main Page to select the next option. In step 240, the Workflow System indicates the name, telephone number and email address of the Account manager assigned to the user and Workout Representative.

[0061] If in step 228, it is determined that the certificate number does not have ten digits, then in step 240, a message is provided to the user advising him or her that the number should have ten digits. In step 242, the system determines whether the subsequent input results in a matching certificate. If not, then in step 244, a message advises the user that no workout can be processed through the e-LMO Fast Track. In step 246, the user is advised of the name, address, and fax number of a contact person. In step 248, the user can return to the Main Page or signoff.

[0062] Once a valid certificate number has been established, the system determines in step 250 whether a prior approved workout exists for the certificate. If so, then in step 252, the system determines whether the prior workout is in Review. If not, then in step 254 the system determines that the prior workout is Pending. The system then determines in step 256 whether the Status Change Date is greater than 60 days. If not, then the system ends the workout process for this certificate number by proceeding with steps 244-248, described above.

[0063] If the prior workout is in Review, or if the prior workout is Pending and the Status Change Date is greater than 60 days, then in step 258, the system allows the user to proceed with the workout. In step 260, the system determines whether the user wants to delete the old workout and proceed with a new workout. If not, then in step 262, the system determines whether the user wishes to print out documents for a previously approved workout. If so, the documents are printed in step 264. In step 266, the user can return to the main page to select the next option.

[0064] The workout proceeds with step 268. In step 270 the system determines whether the loan is categorized as "Exclusionary." If so, the loan workout may not be processed using the e-LMO Fast Track system. The system then performs a series of inquiries to determine which explanatory message to convey to the system user. These inquiries determine whether the certificate number reflects an inactive status 271, whether the lender has acquired title 272, whether the loan is pool insured 273, whether the loan reflects a special deal with claims impact 274, or whether the location of the file indicates that the lender may have acquired title 275. If the system determines that none of inquiries 271-275 apply, then in step 276, the loan is balloon reset. Steps 280-290 set forth the messages corresponding to each of steps 268-278. The workout process then terminates with step 292, in which the user is provided with contact information, and with step 294, in which the user may proceed with another option or sign off.

[0065] In step 296, the system determines whether the user has selected one of the listed workout options. If not, then in step 298, the system determines whether the user simply

wishes to confirm the coverage percentage. Otherwise, in step 300, the system determines whether the user wishes to submit a full document package to a workout representative. If not, then in step 302, the system determines whether the user wishes to select a workout option not offered on the main page. If the user does not wish to select another workout option, then in step 304, the user may sign off or return to the main page to proceed with other option.

[0066] If the user wishes to pursue a workout outside of the e-LMO Fast Track, then in step 306, the user clicks on the "Submit Package" option for a workout representative to review. In step 307, the Workflow System is used to launch a "package promised" task, to notify the account manager in charge of the particular certificate for which the workout is sought. In step 308, the user may sign off the system or return to the main page.

[0067] If it is determined in step 296 that the user has selected one of the listed workout options, then in step 310, the system provides a screen allowing for specific data entry. In step 312, the user reviews, validates and modifies data pre-filled by the system and selects the "verified" button. The user then enters data specific to the workout in step 314 and clicks on the Go button. In step 316, the system checks see whether the workout is acceptable. If, in step 318, it is determined that the proposed workout is not acceptable, then in step 320, the user is advised of necessary changes. In step 322, it is determined whether the inputted data has been modified to meet the workout guidelines. If not, then in step 324, the workout process terminates with respect to the present certificate number, and the user may proceed with another option or sign off.

[0068] If the workout terms meet with the system guidelines, then in step 326 the system lists the conditions of approval. In step 328, the user is given the opportunity to accept or reject the conditions of approval. If the user chooses not to accept the conditions of approval, then in step 330 the user clicks on the "Cancel" button and returns to the main page. If the user accepts the conditions in step 328, then in step 332 the Workflow System is used to inform a workout representative and to track the progress of the workout. In step 333, the workout representative receives notification of the workout for followup.

[0069] In step 334, the system determines whether the user would like to receive a printed approval letter, a promissory note, or other documentation. If no printing is required, then in step 336, the user may sign off or proceed with another option. If the user wishes printed documentation, then in step 338, the system displays the documents in the browser, including the name of the workout representative and contact information. The user uses the browser software print option to obtain a hardcopy print. In step 340, the system determines whether the user wants to initiate a new workout on a different certificate. If not, the user may sign off in step 342. Otherwise, the system returns to node A to repeat the process.

[0070] As further shown in FIG. 12, in step 344 the REO mainframe updates, on an ongoing basis, the status and evaluation of a loan in the database. Further, in step 346, the notepad is updated if the loan servicer cancels a workout. Also, in step 348, the system updates the REO mainframe fields with data inputted by the user. In step 350, the system updates the REO mainframe status line with the workout

status. In step 352, the system updates the REO mainframe notepad with data inputted by the user. And in step 354, the system updates the REO mainframe notepad with the Conditions of Approval.

[0071] As mentioned above, the e-LMO Fast Track system works in conjunction with the LMO-Full Data Entry Online system, which is a system that allows for full data entry of borrower financial information and uses this information to determine an optimal workout option(s). In step 360, the system determines whether the user wishes to proceed with full data entry. If not, then in step 362, the system determines whether the user wishes to submit a package. If so, then in step 364, the system requests documents to be submitted. If not, then in step 366, the user is instructed to contact the mortgage insurance company representative for answers.

[0072] If in step 360 it is determined that the user wishes to proceed with full data entry, then in step 368, the system requests additional data. In step 370, the system determines whether the user wishes to enter additional data. If not, then the system proceeds to steps 362 and the steps which follow therefrom, which are described above. If the user wishes to enter additional data, then in step 372 the system determines whether to recommend another type of workout. If another workout type is recommended, then in step 374, the user decides whether to proceed with the other type of workout, in which case the system returns to node C, or else, if the user does not wish to proceed, the system goes to step 364.

[0073] FIG. 13 is a flowchart of a method 400 according to a further aspect of the invention for handling various types of workouts. Because of size considerations, FIG. 13 has been divided into a 4x3 matrix numbered FIGS. 13A1-3, 13B1-3, 13C1-3, and 13D1-3. These figures are collectively referred to as FIG. 13. The supported workout types include: Repayment/Forbearance ("Repay"), Borrower Assistance Program ("BAP"), BAP Modification ("BAP MOD"), Loan Modification ("MOD"), Pre-Sale, or Deed-in-Lieu ("DIL").

[0074] In steps 402-412, the system determines which one of the above types of workouts is being selected. If it is determined that the user has not found a workout option to pursue, then in step 414, the user is advised to contact the mortgage insurance company for more information, or to submit a full document package for review by an account manager. The steps involved for each of the above listed types of workouts are described below.

[0075] Repayment/Forbearance ("Repay")

[0076] As mentioned above, in a repay scenario, the borrower is experiencing a financial hardship that is perceived to be temporary. The borrower typically has missed a few loan payments, but wishes to resume making the original payments on the loan, plus make arrangements to pay the delinquent amount.

[0077] The Repay workout approval process begins in step 416, in which the user enters the estimated cure date, the estimated repayment term, and whether the loan has been referred to foreclosure. Steps 418-422 are used to ascertain the borrower's bankruptcy status. If the borrower has filed for bankruptcy, an eligible e-LMO Fast Track workout may apply if the bankruptcy is either a Chapter 7 bankruptcy in which the borrower has reaffirmed his or her obligations under the loan for which a workout is sought, or if the bankruptcy is an active Chapter 13 bankruptcy. If the

borrower's bankruptcy status renders them ineligible for an e-LMO Fast Track workout, then in step 422, a suitable message is conveyed to the system user.

[0078] In step 424, the system determines whether more than 24 months have elapsed since the Loan Due Date. If more than 24 months have elapsed, then in step 426, the system provides the message that the workout cannot be handled by Fast Track. If, however, less than 24 months have elapsed, then in step 428, the system determines whether the loan has been referred to foreclosure. If so, then in step 430, the system advises the user that an executed stipulated agreement will be required as a condition of approval.

[0079] In step 432, the system determines whether the term for the repayment of the delinquent amount is less than or equal to 18 months. If the term is greater than 18 months, then in step 434, the user is advised that the term cannot exceed 18 months. In step 436, the system determines whether the user has adjusted the term to meet the guidelines. If the term still does not meet the guidelines, then a suitable message is provided to the user in step 438.

[0080] Otherwise, in step 440, the system determines whether the user accepts the workout. If not, then in step 442 the user selects "cancel," and in step 444 the system returns to the home page. If the user accepts the workout, then in step 446, the user is given the option of printing out documents. If no printout is requested, the user clicks on a "continue" button in step 448 and the process terminates with step 444, in which the user is returned to the home page. If the user requests printed documents, the documents are printed out in step 450. The approval letter includes the name of the workout representative and conditions of approval for the workout. In step 452, the system updates the loan information in the mainframe and sends email to a designated representative. The Workflow System is also notified. Steps 444-452 are collectively referred to herein after as "block D."

[0081] Borrower Assistance Program ("BAP")

[0082] As described above, a Borrower Assistance Program is used when the borrower has a short-term financial crisis, expects to be able to return to the original payment schedule, but needs an additional accommodation to make the delinquent payments. As part of a BAP, the Borrower signs a promissory note to guarantee payment of the amount advanced by the mortgage insurance company to the servicer lender.

[0083] In considering a BAP, the system first determines in step 460 whether the loan is delinquent. If not, then the situation does not meet the guidelines of the e-LMO Fast Track system, and in step 462 a suitable message is sent to the user. If the loan is delinquent, then the system determines in step 464 whether the borrower has a prior BAP with an outstanding balance. If so, then the situation does not meet the Fast Track guidelines, then in step 466 a suitable message is conveyed to the user, and the workout process is terminated.

[0084] In step 468, the user validates global pre-filled data on the data input screen and, in addition, enters the amount of the delinquent borrower's disposable income, the value of the property, the date of property valuation, the reinstatement amount, the amount of borrower contribution, and the occupancy status of the property. In step 470, according to

a further embodiment of the invention, the system uses an Automated Value of Market ("AVM") system to determine the value of the property. As discussed below, the AVM value is compared with the property value entered by the servicer to insure that the servicer has not entered an unrealistic estimate of the value of the property secured by the loan.

[0085] Steps 472-476 are then used to ascertain the bankruptcy status of the borrower, and correspond to steps 418-422 described above.

[0086] In step 478, the system determines whether the property is occupied. The system defines a property as being occupied if the property is occupied by the owner, occupied by the owner and a tenant, occupied by a tenant, or currently vacant but scheduled to be occupied within 90 days. If the property is not occupied, then in step 480 a suitable message is conveyed informing the user that the e-LMO Fast Track may not be used for the present workout.

[0087] In step 482, the system performs an equity calculation, based upon the property value entered by the user and the AVM value and the total indebtedness to determine whether there is any equity in the property. It will be recalled that one requirement for a BAP is that there is no equity. If at least one of the valuations indicates that there is some equity in the property, then the e-LMO Fast Track system may not be used. Steps 484-490 are used to provide a suitable message to the user informing him or her of the results of the equity calculation and further informing the user that the e-LMO Fast Track system may not be used.

[0088] In step 492, the system determines whether the proposed BAP advance amount is within predetermined guidelines. If not, then in step 494, the system asks the user to increase the amount of the borrower contribution by a certain number of dollars. If in step 496 it is determined that the user has failed to suitably increase the amount of the contribution, then in step 498, a suitable message is conveyed to the user.

[0089] Assuming that the contribution is determined to be adequate, then in step 500, it is determined whether the user accepts the terms of the workout. If not, then in step 502 the user selects "cancel" and in step 504 the system returns to the main page. If the user accepts the terms of the workout, then in step 506 the user selects and prints the promissory note. The system then proceeds to block D for completion of the workout process.

[0090] Modification and Borrower Assistance Program ("BAP MOD")

[0091] This is the option chosen when a loan modification is being considered but the borrower is not able to contribute all or part of the default amount and the borrower agrees to sign a promissory note for the amount the mortgage insurance company advances. The system first determines in step 510 whether the loan is delinquent. If not, then in step 512 a suitable message is sent to the user and the process terminates. In step 514, it is determined whether the borrower has a prior BAP with an outstanding balance. If so, then in step 516 the user is informed by a suitable message that the loan is ineligible for processing using the e-LMO system and the process terminates.

[0092] If it is determined that the BAP MOD process may continue, then in step 518, the user validates pre-filled global

data on a suitable data entry screen and enters the following further data: the amount of disposable income, the value of the property, the reinstatement amount, the borrower contribution, the occupancy status, the capitalization amount, the new interest rate, the new term, and the effective date. In step 520, the system obtains an AVM value for comparison with the value entered by the servicer.

[0093] Steps 522-526 determine whether the borrower's bankruptcy status makes the loan ineligible for processing using the e-LMO Fast Track system.

[0094] In step 528, the system determines whether the new loan term is less than or equal to 360 months. If the new loan term exceeds 360 months, then in step 530 the user is warned that the term exceeds the maximum and advises the user to adjust the term. If in step 532 it is determined that the term has not been suitably adjusted, then in step 534, a suitable message is conveyed to the user, informing him or her that the loan may not be processed using the e-LMO Fast Track system.

[0095] Steps 536 and 538 are used to determine the occupancy status of the property, and steps 540-550 are used to perform an equity calculation. These steps correspond to steps 478-490, described above. The remaining steps 552-566 correspond to steps 492-506 described above. Again, if the user agrees to the workout conditions, the process concludes by returning to block D.

[0096] Loan Modification ("MOD")

[0097] The MOD option is for situations in which the borrower's financial hardship is long-term, affecting the borrower's ability to continue to meet his or her obligations under the original loan agreement. In step 570, the user validates pre-filled global data and enters the following additional information: the capitalization amount, the new interest rate, and the new term effective date. Steps 572-576 are used to ascertain the borrower's bankruptcy status and whether that status affects the borrower's eligibility to use the e-LMO Fast Track system. Steps 578-584 insure that the loan term is 360 months or shorter. If in step 586 the borrower accepts the conditions of the workout, then the process moves to block D for completion.

[0098] Pre-Sale

[0099] If the borrower's financial hardship is such that the borrower is unable to continue to own the property, the servicer may select the "pre-sale" option, in which the borrower attempts to sell the property. The estimated proceeds from the sale of the property are used in arriving at suitable terms for the workout.

[0100] In step 590, the user validates pre-filled global data and enters the following additional information: the property value, the valuation date, the anticipated net-on-sale amount, the payoff amount and date, the pre-sale closing date, the contribution amount, the sales price, the closing costs, and the promissory note amount. In step 592, the system obtains an AVM value for the property. Steps 594-598 are used to ascertain the borrower's bankruptcy status and whether, if the borrower has filed for bankruptcy, the servicer may be still eligible to use the e-LMO Fast Track system.

[0101] In step 600, the system determines whether the Pre-Sale closing date is sooner than the payoff date. If not,

then in step 602, a suitable message is sent to the user informing the user that the loan may not be processed using the e-LMO system.

[0102] In step 604, the system compares the property value entered by the servicer with the AVM value. If in steps 606 or 608 it is determined that the entered value matches or exceeds the AVM value, the system proceeds to step 614. The system also proceeds to step 614 if it is determined in step 610 that the user entered valuation falls within an acceptable tolerance. If none of the conditions set forth in steps 606-610 are met, then in step 612 a suitable message is sent to the user informing the user that the loan may not be processed using the e-LMO system.

[0103] In step 614, the system considers whether the User Entered Valuation Data meets the following guidelines: net-on-sale is at least 91% of the value, the net proceeds of the sale is at least 85% of the debt, and the loss limit is equal to or less than \$15,000. If not, then the user is informed of this fact in step 616 and given the opportunity to adjust the terms of the proposed workout. If in step 618 it is determined that the proposed workout still does not meet the guidelines, then in step 620, a suitable message is sent to the user informing the user that the e-LMO system may not be used for the present workout.

[0104] In step 622, the system provides the Conditions of Approval for the proposed workout. In step 624, the user reviews the terms of the pre-sale. In step 626, it is determined whether the user accepts the Conditions of Approval. If not, then in step 628 the user selects cancel, and in step 629 the system returns to the e-LMO home page. If the user accepts the Conditions of Approval, then in step 630 the user selects and prints the promissory note terms, if applicable. The workout process then concludes by moving to block D.

[0105] Deed-in-Lieu ("DIL")

[0106] The final option is the Deed-in-Lieu or "DIL," in which the servicer proposes that the borrower deed the property over to the servicer, towards the satisfaction of the loan obligations. In step 640, the user validates the pre-filled global data and enters the following further information: the name of the investor, an answer to a query as to whether all of the borrowers are deceased, the property value, the property valuation date, the payoff amount (i.e., the total debt), and the payoff date. In step 642, the system obtains an AVM value for the property.

[0107] In step 644, the system determines whether the borrower has filed for bankruptcy. If not, in step 646 the system determines whether all of the borrowers listed in the mortgage are deceased. If not, then in step 648 the user is informed that the workout may not be processed using the e-LMO system. If the borrowers are in fact deceased, then in step 650, the DIL is approved by the system. In step 652, it is determined whether the user accepts the workout terms. If not, then in step 654 the user selects "Cancel" and in step 656 the system returns to the e-LMO home page. If the user accepts the workout terms, then the system proceeds to block D.

[0108] If in step 644 it is determined that the borrower has filed for bankruptcy, then in step 658, it is determined whether the bankruptcy filing is a non-reaffirmed Chapter 7 filing. If not, then in step 660 the user is informed by a suitable message that the workout may not be processed

using the e-LMO system. If the filing is a non-reaffirmed Chapter 7, then in step 662 the system performs a "Loss over Guaranty" calculation using the servicer-entered valuation and the AVM value. In step 664, it is determined whether both calculations result in a Loss over Guaranty situation. If so, the DIL is approved by the system in step 666. In step 668 it is determined whether the user accepts the workout terms. If not, then in step 670 the user selects "Cancel" and in step 672 the system returns to the e-LMO home page. If the user accepts the workout terms, then the process concludes by moving to block D.

[0109] If in step 664 it is determined that one or both calculations fail to result in a Loss over Guaranty situation, then the loan may not be processed using the e-LMO system. In this case, steps 674-680 are used to determine which message is to be conveyed to the user.

[0110] FIGS. 14A and 14B set forth a data matrix 700 that illustrates the data inputs required for the various workouts handled by the e-LMO system and other information relating to the processing these data inputs in accordance with the present invention.

[0111] A Computer Program Listing Appendix is provided with the present application, incorporated herein by reference, that contains exemplary pseudo-code illustrating an implementation of the various forms and functions described above. This pseudo-code can be readily translated into any suitable programming language including, for example, Microsoft Visual Basic. The pseudo-code is provided as an example of one approach to implementing the various forms and functions and may be modified, as needed, without departing from the spirit of the present invention. It should be noted that the Appendix may reflect modifications of the methods illustrated in the flowcharts shown in FIGS. 12 and 13.

[0112] While the foregoing description includes details which will enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, it should be recognized that the description is illustrative in nature and that many modifications and variations thereof will be apparent to those skilled in the art having the benefit of these teachings. It is accordingly intended that the invention herein be defined solely by the claims appended hereto and that the claims be interpreted as broadly as permitted by the prior art.

We claim:

1. A system for automatically obtaining loan workout approvals, comprising:

- a network of personal computers connected into a network administered by a central server computer,
- each personal computer in the network including a network interface for transmitting servicer inputs to, and receiving outputs from, the server computer,
- each personal computer in the network further including display screens for receiving inputs from, and providing outputs to, a servicer on behalf of a financially troubled borrower, including inputs and outputs relating to a proposed workout,
- the central server computer having a central processing unit that runs automatic workout approval analysis software and has access to electronically stored infor-

mation relating to the financially troubled borrower and other information necessary to the decision analysis process,

the central server computer transmitting to the servicer on behalf of the financially troubled borrower, automatically over the network, approval of the proposed workout if certain predefined parameters are met and, if the predefined parameters are not met, providing further instructions to the servicer on behalf of the financially troubled borrower.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the personal computers are connected into the network using an Internet connection.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the network interface is web-based.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the user selects a workout type among a menu of predefined workout types.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein if the user inputs fail to satisfy predetermined guidelines, the user receives a message informing the user that the system cannot be used.

6. A method for automatically obtaining loan workout approvals, comprising:

connecting a network of personal computers connected into a network administered by a central server computer;

providing each personal computer in the network with a network interface for transmitting servicer inputs to, and receiving outputs from, the server computer;

displaying on each personal computer in the network screens for receiving inputs from, and providing out-

puts to, a servicer on behalf of a financially troubled borrower, including inputs and outputs relating to a proposed workout;

running automatic workout approval analysis software having access to electronically stored information relating to the financially troubled borrower and other information necessary to the approval analysis process;

transmitting to the servicer on behalf the financially troubled borrower, automatically over the network, approval of the proposed workout if certain predefined parameters are met to the servicer on behalf of the financially troubled borrower.

7. The method of claim 6, further including:

connecting the personal computers into the network using an Internet connection.

8. The method of claim 6, further including:

using a web-based interface for connecting the server computer into the network.

9. The method of claim 6, further including:

system of claim 1, wherein the user selects a workout type among a menu of predefined workout types.

10. The method of claim 6, further including:

transmitting a message informing the user that the system cannot be used if the user inputs fail to satisfy predetermined guidelines.

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